

Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church



American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

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Pastor – Very Rev. R. Michael Zak, Cell phone:(412)-804-8865

Deacons: Fr. Deacons Artemius Stienstra & Dr. Marc Wisnosky

Sub- Deacon: Andrew Halapin, Jr.

Cantor/Choir Director: Danielle Bartko

Assistant Cantors: Donald Bodnar, Jr. & Michele Tomko

Parish Council President: Tom Pingor

Vol. 8; No. 1

Sunday, April 19, 2020

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA – THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR

7:00 A.M. Son-rise Resurrection Matins

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M. with the Reading of the Gospel in various languages.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 1:1-8;

Resurrection Tone:

Gospel: John 1:1-17

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 193-196 / Red Book: 215-219

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of +**Wendy Pingor**, offered by the Family.

Altar Candles' Sponsor: In memory of the departed members of the +**Harris Family**, offered by Trona and Family.

Beginning of Fast-Free Week (No fasting until Wednesday, April 29th)

Monday, (April 20)... **BRIGHT MONDAY** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy with indoor procession and the Reading of the Resurrection Gospels.

Tuesday, (April 21)... **BRIGHT TUESDAY** 9:30 A.M. Divine Liturgy.

Wednesday, (April 22)... **BRIGHT WEDNESDAY.** No Fasting on this day.

Thursday, (April 23)... **BRIGHT THURSDAY.**

Friday, (April 25)... **BRIGHT FRIDAY.** No Fasting on this day.

Saturday, (April 26)... **BRIGHT SATURDAY.**

Sunday, April 26, 2020

2ND SUNDAY OF PASCHA – SUNDAY OF SAINT THOMAS

Divine Liturgy: 9:00 A.M.

Apostolic Reading: Acts 5:12-20;

Resurrection Tone: 1

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Tropar & Kondak: Blue Book: 199-200 / Red Book: 221-223

CHRIST IS RISEN! – INDEED HE IS RISEN!

**A HAPPY AND BLESSED PASCHA AND BRIGHT WEEK TO
ALL ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!**

JOHN 1:1-17 -

John 1:1 – IN THE BEGINNING RECALLS THE CREATION STORY OF GENESIS, BUT SPEAKS MORE CLEARLY OF THE CREATOR HIMSELF. FURTHERMORE, WHILE GENESIS SPOKE OF THE FIRST CREATION, THIS “PROLOGUE” OF JOHN (vv. 1-18) REVEALS THE NEW CREATION IN CHRIST.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS are 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Monday thru Friday.

EMERGENCY SICK CALLS can be made anytime. Please notify your Pastor when someone is taken to the hospital; Sacred Scriptures remind us to call the presbyter to anoint the sick.

MARRIAGES are celebrated on Saturdays and Sundays. Consult the Pastor at least 6 months in advance and before wedding reception plans have been made. Marriages cannot be celebrated during Lent or Advent, or on Fridays.

BAPTISMS are scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays at 11 A.M. Two God-parents are required; at least one of whom must be an Orthodox Christian by Faith, and the other a practicing Christian. An infant’s first or middle name must be a saint’s name.

CHURCH FUNERALS are provided for parishioners who are current in their spiritual and financial obligations to the Parish. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

FOLLOW OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE! Diocesan Website: <http://www.acrod.org> Camp Nazareth: <http://www.campnazareth.org> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/acrodnews> You Tube: <https://youtube.com/acroddiocese>

IOCC AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO OVERCOME ISOLATION

Fr. John Shimchick, Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross, Medford, New Jersey

As I write, the world, our country, local communities, and Orthodox parishes have been turned upside-down by the coronavirus. Ironically, it is caught by contact with an infected person and can only be overcome by maintaining isolation from others. That word’s literal sense, evolving from the Latin *insulatus*, means “to become an island.”

Isolation represents the path for physical healing, but it may prove to awaken sensibilities that will have spiritual consequences as well.

Christians in the first few centuries would risk their lives in gathering for worship, not just to receive Holy Communion (which, at that time, one could take and receive at home), but to “be present at the eucharist together and regularly” (Gregory Dix, *The Shape of the Liturgy*, 152).

Obviously, because of the circumstances and requirements of civil authorities, we are unable to worship physically, and parishes have been doing their best to offer services and meeting through livestreaming, call conferencing, and the creative use of emails. Many have been required to work or study at home or have been laid off from their jobs.

Our faith and the work of International Orthodox Christian Charities affirm that isolation may happen, but it is not normal and need not be our fate. For all of us who care about Orthodox Christian unity, IOCC represents a vehicle for jurisdictions to work together on a regional level. It helps us share our concerns for the broader world and our relations (or isolation) as Orthodox Christians in ways that we care about but don’t often know how to put into words or where to begin. As individual communities, there may be little we can do beyond our local areas. But when combined with IOCC, we are united with an organization and effective Orthodox witness and humanitarian response that reach throughout the United States and other parts of the world.

Self-isolation and social distancing may have become common expressions of our current dysfunction, but they have healing and the restoration of community as their goals.

John Donne wrote that “No man is an island.” These times, our common prayers, and the work of IOCC can help us understand this and see ourselves and others in ways that may have never before been so obvious and necessary.

SPR50 IS UNDER WAY!!! Church School Families have been given the materials for the new diocesan Family Prayer initiative, **Scripture – Prayer – Family 50** minutes a month. Commitment cards are asked to be returned as soon as possible. For those who do not have children at home and would like to participate as well, details may be found at the special section of our Diocesan website: www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50. KEEP religious education alive in your home. Your children

are depending on you to help them learn the Faith (and maybe you can learn with them). For some very helpful lessons on Orthodox education at home, please go to www.goarch.org/-/religious-education-at-home. The kids are home from school, so instead of sitting in front of a video screen (tv, computer, phone, etc.) give them something fun to occupy their time. They learn from what they see and do, if they see a life in the Church is important to you, they will follow. They cannot go where they are not led.

AND, THE NEXT EDITION OF SPF50 WILL COME OUT ON PASCHA, APRIL 19TH! It will be a digital edition. If you didn't start with us on March 1, consider joining now. Make a commitment to reading Scripture and Praying together with your family. Visit the Diocesan Website at acrod.org and look for the SPF50 section or go directly to the SPF50 web page at <https://www.acrod.org/ministries/acrod-family/spf50> to find more about SPF50 and how to help your family read Scripture and Prayer together at home.

NEW GUIDELINES ARE IN PLACE TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19! Divine Services will continue to be celebrated at Saint Nicholas Church by a maximum of five people. The Sanctuary, Nave, Vestibule and upper-church are closed to all parishioners. Faithful are kindly asked to pray in their homes where all Divine Services will be streamed on ZOOM & Facebook Live for your attention, participation and spiritual edification.

WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THE RESPONSE OF THE MEN'S CLUB TO ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH IN THE MIDST OF THE VIRUS PANDEMIC AFFECTING ALL HUMANITY ON THIS EARTH! We express our deep gratitude and extreme thankfulness to the Saint Nicholas Men's Club for making a special donation of \$1,000.00 to the church in the name of a Coronavirus Relief Donation, helping to supplement the continued envelope donations of beloved parishioners. This monetary gift is especially needful at this time when all liturgical services are being celebrated in a closed church setting and social distancing is being implemented and practiced by all. The Men's Club is also making a donation to St. Michael's Church in McKeesport. A general Pascha contribution is being submitted by this distinguished group of men, as well. May all our beloved parishioners and various organizations view this generosity of the "People of God" and do likewise into their individual stewardship and communal-group financial obligations to our "House of Worship."

MEMBERS OF ST. NICHOLAS: JOIN OUR CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN DEPOSITING YOUR TREASURES IN THE COIN BOXES TO BENEFIT THE ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION CENTER!

The self-denial banks are available for adult parishioners in the vestibule of the church and downstairs in the auditorium. The icon on the front of the O.C.M.C. Coin Box reminds us of Christ's command to make disciples of all nations. The sacrificial money that you graciously collect will be used to help Orthodox Christians who serve as missionaries, volunteer for Mission Teams and support the mission of the Church to take the Gospel to people around the world. Please return the self-denial banks to the church office in the parish hall.

AS YOU HAVE DONATED IN THE PAST, PLEASE CONTRIBUTE IN THE PRESENT FOR THE REPLATING IN GOLD AND SILVER OF THE LITURGICAL VESSELS OF OUR CHURCH! Three chalices and three Communion spoons used at every Sunday Divine Liturgy for the partaking of the Holy Eucharist were recently re-plated in gold and silver at the Frank Mance Plating Service on Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh, PA. When the liturgical vessels of the church needed a refinishing in the past, generous parishioners offered monetary gifts for this service. We humbly implore our faithful members to, once again, contribute their finances to maintain these sacred articles. Since the final cost for the plating service amounted to nearly \$1500.00, any sum of money is certainly appreciated by the "People of God." Pass on your donation to any of the financial leaders in the parish office downstairs.

EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED! We are looking to become more connected as a parish by sending out important announcements, updates, death and sickness notices, and other pertinent information via email. Our high school Sunday School class has volunteered to collect these email addresses. If you have not already provided your email address, we invite you to do so. Email addresses can be submitted by writing it on the sheet in the vestibule, giving it to any high school Sunday School student, or by emailing Bob Bartko at RABartko@gmail.com. Thank you for your participation!

AN EXQUISITE MEMORIAL LITURGICAL GIFT TO THE CHURCH IN MEMORY OF GOD'S DEPARTED SERVANT, +FRANCES ZATORSKY! The elegant-looking converted 3-bar Altar Cross, as seen on the offering table in the nave is a pleasing addition to our sacred temple and it was graciously donated to St. Nicholas Church in loving memory of the recently-deceased steward of the Lord, +Frannie Zatorsky by her beloved family. We thank "Franny's" considerate relatives and pray that the Lord God grant her a blessed repose in Paradise. May her memory be eternal in the mind of Almighty God!

*IN THE MORNING, PRAY EVERY DAY DURING THE PASCHAL SEASON:
PSALM 30 (A HYMN OF RESURRECTION). Verses 3, 5 are seen as
wonderfully fulfilled in Christ's Resurrection by numerous biblical commentaries.*

[Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church](#)